



MUSTANG NEWS



September 2010

St. Mary's High School
555– 15th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 1X2
Phone: (519)376-4278 Fax: (519)376-0793

E-Mail: smhs@bgcdsb.org

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

- * Principal: Mr. G. Miller
- * Vice-Principal: Mr. A. Van Wieringen
- * Superintendent: Mr. G. Casey
- * Secretaries: Mrs. L. Myatt, Mrs. S. Duggan, Ms. D. Brown
- * Director of Education: Mr. B. MacPherson
- * Trustee: Mr. N. Bethune
- * School Council Chairs: J. Armstrong, L. Newell

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year. My name is Mr. G. Miller and it is my pleasure to serve as the principal of St. Mary's High School. 2010-2011 promises to be an exciting year and all of us at St. Mary's looks forward to working closely with our students, parents, and our parish priests to make St. Mary's the best school in Owen Sound. I hope that everyone had a fantastic summer and that you are excited by the upcoming school year. I would like to extend a special welcome to all new students and their families. Special welcome to our new grade 9 students. St. Mary's is a wonderful, caring school community and we are happy to welcome you as a part of it.



In order to keep you informed throughout the year, we produce a school newsletter at the beginning of each month. **This newsletter is available on the school web-site at www.smhs.net.** If you would like to have an electronic copy of the newsletter and other updates/reminders sent to you each month, please call (519)376-4278.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Welcome back students, parents and educators to an exciting 2010-2011 school year. Our school board has chosen "*The Body of Christ, Worshipping, Welcoming, Working for Justice*" as its theme for the year. Through collaboration between the home, school and parish, our community can accomplish this faithful mission in three ways. Firstly, through the use of our eyes to look at our world with compassion; secondly, through the use of our feet which we walk with to do deeds of justice; and thirdly, through the use of our hands with which we help to bless our world.

Following Jesus' command is by no means an easy task to live by. At a Catholic school, we are called to holiness and walking towards sanctity by a daily death and resurrection in Christ which leads us to right relationship with ourselves, others, God and the world. We are sent out to inaugurate the Kingdom of Heaven on earth which requires one another.

Therefore, with open hearts, let us not only hear God's word, but, let us also fulfill the will of Christ, for His body is one but has many members (1 Cor. 12:12-31). Let us pray for one another that we are constantly renewed and transformed with Christ's grace. How will you embrace His will and live as Jesus has? How do you worship, welcome and work for justice? I wish you all a very blessed beginning 2010 school year,

Prayerfully,
Ms L. Foch
Chaplaincy Leader, Chair Religious Studies

Grade 9 orientation- A huge success!

On August 24th and August 25th St. Mary's High School hosted a grade 9 orientation. The purpose of the orientation is to give grade 9 students the opportunity to meet new staff and students, find their lockers, and participate in activities that will enhance their success in high school. These 2 days proved to be very successful and feedback from parents and students was very positive. The second day, which included a trip to Canada's Wonderland, was awesome and the weather could not have been better. Special thanks to the many staff members and our awesome Trinity Peer Mentors who were able to join us for the orientation. If you know any students and their families who are interested in becoming part of the St. Mary's family please ask them to give us a call.

PEANUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL

St. Mary's High School is a peanut sensitive school. Peanut allergies are potentially life threatening. As a result, absolutely no peanut products are permitted in our school.

Thanks in advance for your co-operation.



Lockers

Each student has been given a copy of the school's handbook. Included in this is information about lockers. It is important that students realize that the lockers are the property of the school and as such can be searched as required.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

St. Mary's High School welcomes several new staff members this year:

Mr. Andy Clark

Mr. Sean Eckert

Ms. Suzanne Gouchie

Mrs. Shirley Bushell

STUDENT CARD FEE

Once again this year all students will be required to purchase a student card for \$30. Homeroom teachers will be collecting this fee during the week of September 14th. The student card fee will be used by our Student Activities Council (SAC) to provide activities, services and events for our student body. It is hoped that this fee will eliminate the need for our SAC to complete major fundraisers (i.e. chocolate bar sales). The student card fee will provide students with:

- valid photo id
- an agenda planner (school handbook)
- subsidized school dances (Did you know that it costs our SAC over \$800 per night to have police officers present at our school dances? Did you know that video dances cost in excess of \$1500?)
- school assemblies
- access to school library services
- access to school computers
- access to co-curricular opportunities (school teams/clubs)
- access to school field trips
- access to late bus service
- discounts at various local businesses.

GRADE 9 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

A Grade 9 Parent Information Night will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 beginning at 6:30 p.m. All grade 9 students and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend. We will start with a presentation about high school life and the role of parents in supporting their child at St. Mary's at 6:30 p.m. Following this presentation parents will rotate through their child's Semester 1 timetable giving them a chance to meet their child's teachers. It's critical that parents remain involved in their teenager's life. It is hoped that the parents of all Grade 9 students will be able to attend.

Experience indicates that problems sometimes develop due to incorrect interpretations of information or a lack of transfer of information from home to school and vice-versa. Should you or your child have a serious concern which they do not seem to be able to resolve, please contact the teacher to arrange an interview. Clarification will frequently resolve the problem in the initial stages before it becomes a major concern.

If you have a concern, we hope that you feel comfortable about discussing it. It is only through dialogue and open communication channels that we can hope to resolve difficulties and allay misunderstanding.

In seeking a resolution to concerns, the proper recourse is the following:

- call or meet with the classroom teacher - if this does not resolve the difficulty,
- call or meet with our guidance/resource teachers, if not resolved,
- call or meet with the vice principal (Mr. A. VanWieringen) - if not resolved,
- call or meet with the principal (Mr. G. Miller) - if not resolved,
- call or meet with our area superintendent (Mr. G. Casey), if not resolved,
- call or meet with our Director (Mr. B. MacPherson), if not resolved,

STUDENT HANDBOOK

All students have received a Student Handbook. All students and parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with its contents. If you did not receive a Handbook, please pick one up in the main office.



\MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary's High School is a Christian community which promotes excellence and strength in individuals spirituality, intellectually, socially and physically, caring and growing with one another in partnership with families, parish and the community.

CRICKET IS COMING TO ST. MARY'S

A group of Australian instructors will be coming to SMHS on **September 20th** to run a 3 day clinic with all of the students that are enrolled in phys. ed. classes during first semester. Aussie X is a Toronto based company that travels around to Ontario schools to promote Australian culture through sports. Students will have 2 days of instruction on the game of cricket and will play a game on the final day. Aussie X will also offer a one day after school session on Aussie Rules Football which will be open to all students. Perhaps most exciting of all will be the after school cricket match where parents and teachers can challenge students. Please contact the Phys. Ed. department if you are interested in participating!

EARLY DISMISSAL

All of our families are encouraged to note the following early dismissal dates:

Oct 27, 2010

Nov 24, 2010

March 2, 2011

and May 11, 2011.

Please note that all students will be dismissed on these dates at 1:30 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS !

Congratulations are extended to Mr. & Mrs. Hillyer on the birth of Josephine (Josie) Elizabeth Hillyer has finally arrived! On Tuesday morning at 12:10 am she made her entrance weighing in at 8 lbs 11 oz.

PHOTO DAY

Picture Day will be held on **Friday September 17th**. Information regarding picture packages will be sent home prior to picture day. All students and staff are asked have their photo taken for the purposes of the school yearbook regardless of whether they are buying a photo package. On picture day money will also be collected for students and staff wishing to purchase a yearbook. The cost per yearbook will be \$ 30.00

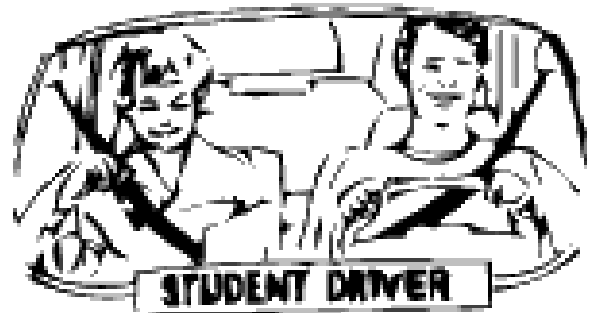
Lifetouch has been contracted again this year to do our photography work. Lifetouch will be provided with class lists (student names and grades) which will be used to prepare student cards. They will return all information to us when the photography sessions are completed. If you do not wish for your child's information to be shared, please send a note to the principal immediately. Please be aware that if you choose not to have your child's information shared, Lifetouch will not be permitted to photograph your child.

Driver Education will be offered at St. Mary's High School in the fall of 2010. Students must have a level 1 drivers licence prior to September 17th. The cost will be \$485.00 per student. Please make a cheque payable to the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board. Students must make a legible copy of their drivers licence and attached it to the registration. *Students will not be enrolled without a copy of their licence attached.* The enrollment form, copy of the licence and cheque must be dropped off to Mr. Newell by Thursday September 17th. Students will pick up a text book from Mr. Newell when they turn in their cheque. The students are asked to read the first 4 chapters before Saturday September 18th. Enrolment is expected to exceed the maximum class size, so priority will be given to the first 22 students who return a completed registration form with a cheque. The in-class portion of the course will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays on the dates below.

Saturday September 18 th	8:30am to 3:30pm
Sunday September 25 th	8:30am to 3:30pm
Saturday September 26 th	8:30am to 3:30pm
Sunday October 3rd	8:30am to 3:30pm

Students may not miss any classes. Students should bring a notebook and pen to each class. There will be a break for ½ hour lunch which will not be long enough to leave the school to go out for lunch. Therefore, students are asked to bring snacks and a lunch with them. Blue Water Driving Academy will be delivering the in-car portion of the course and arrangements for these sessions will be made once the student has begun the in-class portion of the course.

Contact Mr. Newell if you have any questions.



HELP US HELP THE ENVIRONMENT!

St. Mary's High School uses a considerable amount of paper on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis and we need your help. In an effort to be environmentally conscious we would like to offer you the opportunity to send you our monthly newsletter via email. Simply email Dana_Brown@bgcdsb.org or

Nancy_Detzler@bgcdsb.org

Thank you for helping us help the environment!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, Sept. 17 Picture Day
- Friday, Sept. 17 School Dance

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

- Wednesday October 27th
- Wednesday November 24th
- Wednesday March 2nd
- Wednesday May 11th



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CAFETERIA SERVICES

Our school cafeteria is open daily. The cafeteria is being managed by Chartwell's School Dining Services. They are committed to a Balanced Choice Menu at affordable prices.

SCHOOL DANCE

Our first school dance of the year will be held on **Friday, September 17th** from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Get involved—see you there.

RECREATIONAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

Need help with funding for Recreational Programs, school electives, class trips to the Outdoor Education Center, Grade 7 or 8 trips? The Grey NCB Program may be able to help you:

- Available for families living in Grey County
- Maximum subsidy currently available is \$200 per child per year
- Total family income under \$35000 per year
- Children 18 years of age and under (residing with parent)
- Refunds can be processed with a paid receipt

For more information or an application form contact the Grey NCB Office at (519)371-8627 or pick up an application at the Family Y in Owen Sound.

SEPARATE SCHOOL SUPPORT

When you move, your Catholic school support does not follow you. As soon as any change is made to your address, your school support designation reverts to Public. Unless you update this information, you will not be able to take part in Catholic Trustee elections. Contact the Board Office at (519)364-5820 for more information.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Nominations for this year's Parent Advisory Council are now being sought. According to the School Council constitution, up to seven (7) parent representatives are needed with all positions being open for the upcoming school year. **A nomination form can be obtained from Mr. Miller, school principal. Please contact the school office at (519)376-4278.** Your participation would be greatly appreciated. Nominations are to be returned to the school by **September 24th**.

Check us out on the web at <http://www.smhs.net>

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

Students currently in Grade 10 as well as those who were unsuccessful in previous years will write the OSSLT on Thursday, March 31, 2011. Passing the OSSLT or the Literacy Course is necessary in order to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Further details will follow prior to the test.

LOCKERS

Each student has been given a copy of the school's handbook. Included in this is information about lockers. It is important that students realize that the lockers are the property of the school and as such can be searched as required.

INTERNET USE

All students are reminded that they, in order to comply with board policy, must have a signed acceptable internet use form submitted to the office before they are permitted to use the school's computer system. Contravention of this acceptable use policy can lead to consequences up to and including suspension.

ALTERNATE BUSING

In keeping with board policy regarding alternate busing, students are reminded that they are not able to ride a bus different than the one to which they are assigned for reasons such as going to their job, visiting a friend, dental appointment etc.. Permission to ride a different bus is only given by the board in the case of different places of residence of parent/guardians. If alternate busing arrangements are needed for such a reason, an application form available from the school (or downloaded from the board web site) must be completed and returned to the board office for approval.



INSURANCE FORMS

All students were given an insurance form as part of their opening day package. It offers low-cost insurance to students in case of accidents. Students who participate in sports etc are particularly encouraged to enrol in this program. All students participating in the co-op program must purchase this insurance as per Board Policy.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

In order to ensure a safe learning environment, the use of video surveillance is in effect at St. Mary's High School and on many of its school buses. The video images are collected under the authority of the Education Act S. 170 and will be used to reduce/prevent property vandalism, theft and violence and to ensure the safety of students.

**WISHING YOU A
FANTASTIC 2010-2011
SCHOOL YEAR!**

Check us out on the web at <http://www.smhs.net>